

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4403

To establish an Office of Science and Technology in the Office of Justice
Programs of the Department of Justice.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 9, 2000

Mr. BOEHLERT (for himself and Mr. STUPAK) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish an Office of Science and Technology in the
Office of Justice Programs of the Department of Justice.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Law Enforcement
5 Science and Technology Act of 2000”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE; DIRECTOR.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established in
8 the Department of Justice under the Assistant Attorney
9 General, Office of Justice Programs, an Office of Science

1 and Technology (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the
2 “Office”).

3 (b) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS AND EMPLOYEES.—

4 The Office of Science and Technology of the National In-
5 stitute of Justice is hereby abolished, and the functions
6 and employees of such office shall be transferred to the
7 Office established under subsection (a).

8 (c) DIRECTOR.—The Office shall be headed by a di-
9 rector appointed from the career Senior Executive Service,
10 who shall initially be paid at the same rate of compensa-
11 tion applicable to the Director of the Office of Science and
12 Technology of the National Institute of Justice on the date
13 of the enactment of this Act.

14 **SEC. 3. MISSION OF OFFICE; DUTIES.**

15 (a) MISSION.—The mission of the Office shall be—

16 (1) to serve as the national focal point for work
17 on law enforcement technology; and

18 (2) to carry out programs to improve the safety
19 and effectiveness of, and access to, technology to as-
20 sist Federal, State, and local law enforcement agen-
21 cies.

22 (b) DUTIES.—In carrying out its mission, the Office
23 shall—

24 (1) provide recommendations and advice to the
25 Attorney General;

1 (2) establish advisory groups (which shall be ex-
2 empt from the provisions of the Federal Advisory
3 Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.)) to assess the tech-
4 nology needs of Federal, State, and local law en-
5 forcement agencies;

6 (3) establish technical and use standards for,
7 and test and evaluate technologies that may be used
8 by, Federal, State, and local law enforcement agen-
9 cies;

10 (4) establish a program to certify, validate, and
11 mark, or otherwise recognize, products that conform
12 to standards set by the Office;

13 (5) work with other Federal agencies to estab-
14 lish a coordinated Federal approach to issues related
15 to law enforcement technology;

16 (6) conduct research and development in fields
17 that would improve the safety, effectiveness, and ef-
18 ficiency of technologies used by Federal, State, and
19 local law enforcement agencies, including—

20 (A) weapons capable of preventing use by
21 unauthorized persons, including personalized
22 guns;

23 (B) protective apparel;

24 (C) bullet-resistant and explosion-resistant
25 glass;

1 (D) monitoring systems and alarm systems
2 capable of providing precise location informa-
3 tion;

4 (E) wire and wireless interoperable com-
5 munication technologies;

6 (F) tools and techniques that facilitate fo-
7 rensic work;

8 (G) equipment for particular use in
9 counterterrorism, including devices and tech-
10 nologies to disable terrorist devices;

11 (H) guides to assist State and local law en-
12 forcement agencies;

13 (I) DNA identification technologies; and

14 (J) tools and techniques that facilitate in-
15 vestigations of computer crime.

16 (7) administer a program of research, develop-
17 ment, testing and demonstration to improve the
18 interoperability of voice and data public safety com-
19 munications;

20 (8) serve on the Technical Support Working
21 Group of the Department of Defense, and on other
22 relevant interagency panels, as requested;

23 (9) develop and disseminate technical assistance
24 and training materials to local law enforcement

1 agencies, including assistance combating computer
2 crime;

3 (10) operate the regional National Law En-
4 forcement and Corrections Technology Centers and,
5 through a competitive process, establish additional
6 centers;

7 (11) support research fellowships in support of
8 its mission;

9 (12) serve as a clearinghouse for information on
10 law enforcement technologies;

11 (13) represent the United States and State and
12 local law enforcement agencies, as requested, in
13 international activities concerning law enforcement
14 technology;

15 (14) enter into contracts and cooperative agree-
16 ments and provide grants, which may require in-kind
17 or cash matches from the recipient, as necessary to
18 carry out its mission; and

19 (15) carry out other duties assigned by the At-
20 torney General to accomplish the mission of the Of-
21 fice.

22 (d) COORDINATION WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES.—
23 Federal agencies shall, upon request from the Office and
24 in accordance with Federal law, provide the Office with
25 any data, reports, or other information requested, unless

1 compliance with such request is otherwise prohibited by
2 law.

3 (e) PUBLICATIONS.—Decisions concerning publica-
4 tions issued by the Office shall rest solely with the Direc-
5 tor of the Office.

6 (f) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—The Office may transfer
7 funds to other Federal agencies or provide funding to non-
8 Federal entities through grants, cooperative agreements,
9 or contracts to carry out its duties under this section.

10 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 (a) AMOUNTS.—In each of fiscal years 2000 through
12 2005, there are authorized to be appropriated for the Of-
13 fice \$200,000,000.

14 (b) SET-ASIDES.—Of the amounts appropriated for
15 the Office in each of fiscal years 2000 through 2005—

16 (1) \$40,000,000 shall only be available for the
17 regional National Law Enforcement and Corrections
18 Technology Centers;

19 (2) \$60,000,000 shall only be available for re-
20 search and development of forensic technologies and
21 methods to improve crime laboratories;

22 (3) \$20,000,000 shall only be available for de-
23 velopment of standards and for the testing and eval-
24 uation of technologies;

1 (4) \$10,000,000 shall only be available for sala-
2 ries and expenses; and

3 (5) not more than 5 percent of funds appro-
4 priated for the Office shall be available for expendi-
5 ture under the provisions enacted in the Intergovern-
6 mental Personnel Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-648;
7 84 Stat. 1909) and the Systems Engineering and
8 Technical Assistance program.

9 (c) NON-FEDERAL RESEARCH.—(1) Of the funds
10 available to the Office in any fiscal year for research and
11 development, 75 percent shall be available only for non-
12 Federal entities through a competitive process. Continuing
13 funding through competitive awards made in prior years
14 shall apply toward such amount.

15 (2) Of the funds expended by the Office in any fiscal
16 year for testing and evaluation, 75 percent shall be made
17 available to non-Federal entities through a competitive
18 process. Continuing funding through competitive awards
19 made in prior years shall apply toward such amount.

20 (d) REDUCTIONS.—If, in any of fiscal years 2001
21 through 2005, an amount less than \$200,000,000 is ap-
22 propriated for the Office, the amounts in subsection
23 (b)(1), (2), and (3) shall be reduced in proportion to the
24 amount appropriated.

1 **SEC. 5. ANNUAL REPORT.**

2 Not later than February 1 of each year, the Director
3 of the Office shall submit to the President and Congress
4 a report on the state of law enforcement technology.

5 **SEC. 6. DEFINITION.**

6 For the purposes of this Act, the term “law enforce-
7 ment technology” includes investigative and forensic tech-
8 nologies, corrections technologies, and technologies that
9 support the judicial process.

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